

**JODY DARDIS**  
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March 9, 2010

Transportation Committee  
300 Capitol Avenue  
Room 2300 LOB  
Hartford, CT 06106

**Testimony for Public Hearing**  
**Wednesday March 10, 2010**

**Re: HB 5457 AN ACT ENHANCING PENALTIES FOR HARM TO VULNERABLE USERS OF A PUBLIC WAY.**

Dear Mr. Chairman and Committee Members,

My name is Jody Dardis and I'm here today to ask for your **SUPPORT of HOUSE BILL 5457 AN ACT ENHANCING PENALTIES FOR HARM TO VULNERABLE USERS OF A PUBLIC WAY.**

This past October I was seriously injured by an encounter with ATV riders on a state multipurpose trail.

I was riding my horse on the Larkin State Bridle Trail when two ATVs abruptly appeared directly in front of me. They entered the main trail from an adjacent path. Although the ATVs did not collide with us their sudden appearance within ten feet of me and my horse resulted in my life changing injuries when my horse spun in fright.

The state trail I was riding on is a multipurpose trail originally designed for horseback riding. The Larkin State Bridle Trail prohibits motorized activity; therefore these ATVs were on this trail illegally.

My injuries included my left arm, which was broken in two places, at the humerus bone and elbow. I also suffered three broken ribs and broken vertebrae in my spine. I spent five days in the hospital recovering from major surgery; my arm will never fully function again because these two ATV riders acted recklessly on a multipurpose trail.

As a result of my injuries I lost my job and if not for the aid of family and friends would have lost my home. The ATV riders were not apprehended. I spoke with local law enforcement and was told there was not much they could do to catch them.

This legislation as written would not have exactly applied to my situation; however it is a step in the right direction. More needs to be done to help protect vulnerable users on public ways, and I urge you to vote in support of this important bill.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Jody Dardis